National Water Development Agency (NDWA), studied under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective Plan (NPP), the water balance status of the west flowing rivers and prepared Feasibility Reports of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link involving Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal links involving Gujarat and Maharashtra States. Besides, it has prepared pre-feasibility report in respect of Netravati-Hemavati and Bedti-Varda links involving Karnataka State to divert surplus water of west flowing rivers towards the eastern side. The consensus on the water sharing of each link with the concerned State is pre-requisite for implementation of these schemes.

Completion of irrigation projects

152. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on many irrigation projects have been held up due to non-release of funds by the Central Government resulting in revision of time schedule and cost over-run in respect of these projects;

(b) if so, the details of such irrigation projects, State-wise;

(c) the time-frame which was set up initially and the new time schedule set for completion of these projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to direct the concerned authorities to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Irrigation being a State subject irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The Central Government has been providing since 1996-97 Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for accelerating implementation of such approved on-going major/medium irrigation projects which are beyond the resources capability of the States and are in an advanced stage of completion. The CLA is provided on an year to year basis to the States under the programme subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the year and the budget provision; made for the project in the State Plan. The request from the State Governments for providing CLAunder AIBP, subject to the criteria of the programme received during the year is considered and CLA provided to the States, as such no project has been held up resulting in revision of time schedule and cost over-run in respect of these projects due to non release of CLA under AIBP.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.